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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O maker of the seas and the Earth, speak to our hearts today that we may cling to things that cannot fail. Speak to our lawmakers that they may embrace Your purposes and do Your will. Give them rest—not from labor but strength for the work before them. And, God, we also ask You to bless this land. Defend it from the forces that seek to destroy our freedoms. May its citizens never forget that “righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.”

Today, be with the family members of former Senator Jesse Helms as they mourn his death. Give traveling mercies to our Senators who will attend the funeral.

We pray in Your compassionate Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 8, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that morning hour. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the FISA legislation. We will offer and debate amendments to the bill today and begin voting sometime tomorrow morning. When we come in tomorrow morning, there will be 105 minutes left of debate time.

As previously announced, to accommodate Senators wanting to attend the funeral of Jesse Helms, there will be no votes today. We do that to honor our departed friend Jesse Helms. So there will be no votes today. That will work out just fine. It is appropriate that we do that and have no votes today.

We will be in recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today to allow our weekly Democratic caucus luncheon. Republicans, who normally have theirs the same time we do, will have theirs tomorrow. I have indicated to the Republican leader that we will protect his caucus. There will

be no votes tomorrow during that period of time. Having said that, we are going to do everything we can to complete all the votes before the Republican caucus tomorrow. If we do not finish, we may have a vote after lunch. We will do that.

Around 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, we are going to have another vote on the Medicare doctors fix, which is so important to our country. We hope by 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon we will pick up another vote, that we will have the 60 votes. That certainly would be good news for senior citizens, all those people on Medicare, and the doctors who want to take care of those patients.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 6377

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 6377 is at the desk, and it is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6377) to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to utilize all its authority, including its emergency powers, to curb immediately the role of excessive speculation in any contract market within the jurisdiction and control of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, on or through which energy futures or swaps are traded, and to eliminate excessive speculation, price distortion, sudden or unreasonable fluctuations or unwarranted changes in prices, or other unlawful activity that is causing major market disturbances that prevent the market from accurately reflecting the forces of supply and demand for energy commodities.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this legislation at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection has been heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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